

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, IN

SUBJ: BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 090291

1. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE REPORT ON MEETING WITH INDIAN ECONOMIC MINISTER AND REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF BILATERAL TEXTILE SITUATION. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, DURING ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION MEETING AND EARLIER JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING, GOI HAD MADE SERIES OF STATEMENTS REGARDING TEXTILE SITUATION WHICH DO NOT HAVE ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING SUBCOMMISSION MEETING JOINT SECRETARY KUMAR STATED THAT JANUARY AMENDMENTS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT RESULTED IN NET DECREASE IN YARDAGE AVAILABLE TO INDIAN EXPORTERS ("2 1/2 YARDS LOST IN GROUP II FOR EVERY YARD INCREASED IN HANDLOOM").

2. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO GET INTO ANY PUBLIC DISPUTE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST DEPARTEMENT'S CONFIRMATION AND CLARIFICATION OF BILATERAL TEXTILE SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

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3. IN GROUP I INDIA HAS AVAILABLE TO IT DURING TEXTILE YEAR 120 MILLION SQ.YDS. PLUS 12 MILLION SQ.YDS. CARRY-OVER. CAN INDIA REQUEST CARRY FORWARD AGAINST NEXT AGREEMENT YEAR LEVELS IF IT SO DESIRES? ACTUAL USAGE DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF CURRENT TEXTILE YEAR HAS ONLY BEEN 47 MILLION SQ.(YDS.

4. GROUP II LIMIT IS 20 MILLION SQ.YDS. IMPORTS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF TEXTILE YEAR HAVE BEEN 16.8 MILLION SQ.YDS., BUT THIS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION DOWNWARD AS A RESULT OF JANUARY AMENDMENTS TO TEXTILE AGREEMENT. IS THERE ANY CARRYOVER FOR GROUP II FROM PREVIOUS AGREEMENT YEAR? COULD GOI REQUEST CARRY FORWARD AGAINST NEXT AGREEMENT YEAR LEVELS?

5. GROUP III. TOTAL QUOTA IN GROUP III IS 2.9 MILLION DOZEN UNITS. WHAT WERE ACTUAL IMPORTS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS? DO ANY CARRY-OVER PROVISIONS APPLY TO THIS CATEGORY?

6. GENERAL: WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPUTE SQUARE YARDAGE CHANGES WHICH RESULTED FROM JANUARY AGREEMENT? SPECIFICALLY, HOW MUCH YARDAGE DID INDIA SACRIFICE IN CATEGORY II? HOW MUCH YARDAGE DID INDIA GAIN IN THE HANDLOOM GARMENTS CATEGORY? WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE COMPARING UNITS WITH YARDS BUT ASSUME THAT SOME SORT OF AGERAGE CONVERSION FIGURE COULD BE EMPLOYED.

7. IF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE COVERED IN A DEPARTMENT POSITION PAPER, WOULD APPRECIATE COPY BEING AIRPOUCHED TO EMBASSY. OTHERWISE, WOULD APPRECIATE EITHER THE DATA REQUESTED OR THE TEXT OF A PAPER FOR TRANSMISSION TO GOI WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE ABOVE POINTS.
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